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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sterilized barrier apparatus, comprising: a sterile, tubular sheath that is collapsible into a collapsed condition and expandable from the collapsed condition into an expanded condition configured to displace between expanded and collapsed conditions;

a hollow extension tube secured to a distal end of the sterile, tubular sheath; and an instrument console with a surgical pack that includes an aspiration tube having a distal end to which is attached the hollow extension tube, the aspiration tube projecting from the instrument console, the sterile, tubular sheath being arranged to contain the aspiration tube within confines of the sterile, tubular sheath between the hollow extension tube and the instrument console and thereby serve as a sterilized barrier against exposure of the aspiration tube to contamination, being secured to the aspiration tube at a location spaced from the distal end of the aspiration tube and being in the expanded condition.

Claim 2; (currently amended): A sterilized barrier apparatus of claim 1, furthereomprising a surgical pack that includes the aspiration tube; wherein the surgical
pack including includes a cassette arranged to receive contents of the aspiration tube
that are being aspirated, the aspiration tube having a proximal end closer to the
cassette than the distal end of the aspiration tube, the location where the sterile,
tubular sheath is secured to the aspiration tube being closer to the proximal end than
to the distal end of the aspiration tube.

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Claim 3 (currently amended): A sterilized barrier apparatus of claim 1 2, further comprising an wherein the instrument console with has a suction pump that, when activated, suctions the aspiration tube, the aspiration tube projecting from the instrument console.

Claim 4 (original), A sterilized barrier apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a surgical handpiece attached to the distal end of the aspiration tube.

Claim 5 (original): A sterilized barrier apparatus of claim 1, wherein the surgical handpiece is attached to a distal end of the hollow, extension tube.

Claims 6-11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): A sterilized barrier apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sterile, tubular sheath is configured so as to be collapsible into the collapsed condition in an accordion fashion.